Old Secti. II 28, New Sectt. II-16-71,006—28-1-55.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

P.W (1955) Department.

~~Endorsement~~
~~D.O.~~
~~Memorandum~~
~~Lodged~~

No. 37229 A/55-2

Dated 27-5- 1955.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Department.	Number.	Series.	Date.

A 37229 M(W) ms 30/4

Secy. P.W.D.

4 MAY 1955 GOVT. OF MADRAS

6 6-MAY 1955 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

WELCOME ADDRESS

PRESENTED BY

The South Kanara District Board

TO

THE HON'BLE SRI K. KAMARAJ

Chief Minister to the Govt. of Madras.

RESPECTED SIR,

We, the President and members of the South Kanara District Board, extend to you a cordial welcome on this occasion of your first visit to our District. It is with feelings of sincere joy and pride that we greet you, because we see in your person a devoted friend and servant of the people, a common man occupying the highest position in the state. Though this is your first visit to our District, you are no stranger to us. We are all conscious of the unique services rendered by you to our motherland. As early as in 1920, when Gandhiji took up the leadership of the national struggle and started the Non-co-operation movement, you were one of the first to join the fight for freedom. Since then, every phase of the fight for independence found you in the fore-front, suffering every hardship, and undergoing imprisonment every time. Later, in the wake of freedom, as President of the Tamilnad Congress, you had to shoulder the great responsibility of steering the ship of State wisely and safely, and it is a tribute to your state-craft and political acumen that the composite State of Madras had democratic government throughout the years of strain and stress. In the comparatively short period of your office as Chief Minister, you have showu how able a statesman and administrator you are. But more important than all these is the natural sympathy which you have for the backward, the down-trodden, and the less fortunate of our countrymen. It is this quality in you which has endeared you to the vast masses of our people, striking a responsive chord in their hearts. Verily you are a leader among workers and a worker among leaders.

This is probably the first occasion when the Distsrict Board in its long career presents an address to the Chief Minister of the State. We therefore feel that it is our duty to avail of this unique opportunity to place before you some of our problems which call for an early solution with the assistance of the State Government.

A problem which touches intimately the everyday life of a large number of our people is the lack of proper communications in this District. Your tour would have revealed to you how difficult and poor communications are in this District. Though we have 1,500 miles of roads, a great many of them do not connect the interior villages with the more important centres of trade and commerce, as they are intercepted by many streams and rivers, which have neither bridges nor causeways accross them. The physical features of the land, the hills and valleys have added to the difficulties and more miles of roads are required to reach a place on account of this. The Government is giving the Board a small grant for improvement of village communications and under the Post-War road development scheme. These grants are quite inadequate, and in as much as the District Board is not in a position to spend any sum on the construction of new roads, the problem will remain unsolved. We trust our representation will receive due consideration at your hands. You have just laid the foundation for a bridge accross one of the rivers along the coast road. While the bridges accross the three rivers are certainly of great importance, their usefulness would be complete only when the remaining rivers along the coast road are bridged, so that there could be through communication along the whole length of the District in the thickly populated area.

4/ The finances of the Board are in a crippled condition. With the best of intentions The Board has not been able to meet the demands of the people for more schools and greater facilities for medical relief, because of the chronic deficit in its finances. The buildings in which the Elementary Schools are held are very old and unsuitable. Our constitution requires that within the next five years, every child should attend a school and remain there from 6 to 14 years. This would mean that our Elementary Schools should be extended and many of them raised to the standard of Higher Elementary Schools. It is estimated that Rs. 20 lakhs will be required to improve the existing schools and equip them properly. In the matter of secondary education, the Board has not been able to find the finances for starting any of the bifurcated courses of study or improve the existing accomodation. Medical relief requires extension and the District Board has before it requests from 60 centres for opening dispensaries and Maternity and Child welfare centres. Unless the finances of the Board are properly rehabilitated, it will not be able to satisfy any of these demands.

5/ While we are very grateful to the Government for pushing forward with vigour the scheme for supply of electric energy from Mysore, we request that since all the power available may not be consumed within the area covered by the present scheme, the scheme may be extended to cover the entire district.

6/ Our claim for a major port for this District is still under the consideration of the Union Government. We request you to exert your great influence with the Union Government, so that the establishment of a major port will soon be an accomplished fact.

7/ The question of re-organisation of Local Boards has been before the Government from some time. It is necessary to put them on a proper footing so that they become effective instruments to carry out the will of the people in the vast field of Local Administration. The District Board Act and the statutory rules framed under it from time to time, leave little scope for initiative by the locol bodies. Unless they are invested with real power and responsibility, they will be in the unevaiable position of rousing hopes and expectations without the means to fulfil them. Whether the District Boards are continued as now or not, it is necessary that they should enjoy a greater amount of autonomy with more control on the departments on whom the efficiency of their administration depends.

8/ We do not wish to weary you with our other problems. We do hope, however, that your tour has shown to you the many needs of this remote part of the state, over whose destinies you preside with such distinction and in the course of time our requests will bear fruit so that this rare visit of yours to our District will be ever remembered by the people.

9/ We sincerely thank you for the great honour you have done us to-day by graciously consenting to accept our address and to be amidst us. Our connection with Tamilnad and its great people is very ancient. Our recent relationship has been cordial. We do not know what our future position will be. We believe however, that you will always have a soft corner in your heart for our District and the people. We hope also that the pleasant memories you carry with you of your rare visit to our Dt. will help to foster the warmth of your heart towards us. We conclude wishing you long years of devoted and ever glorious service to the Motherland and the Madras State.

We remain,

Yours fraternally,

THE PRESIDENT & MEMBERS OF
THE SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT BOARD.

S. K. DT. BD. OFFICE,
MANGALORE,
29-4-'55.

Please see the welcome address presented by the District Board South Kanara to the Chief Minister on 29.4.55 at pp 1-2 ante. This Dept is concerned with the requests contained at 'x' on p 1 ante and in paras 5-6 on p 2 ante. The remaining requests relate to HELA. An extract of the request at 'x' on p 1 ante may be forwarded to the CE (H) for disposal. A draft memo is submitted below for approval.

Through F/ 21.5.55

RM 18/5/55

Kaw 19.5.55

Para 5 on p 2 ante :- An extract may be forwarded to the CE (S) for disposal. Draft memo (Draft I) is subd for approval.

ch 21.5.55

SR 21/5/55

23/5/55

AS III 25.5.55

Para 6 on p 2 ante: It has been decided by the Govt. of India that the question of siting a major port in South Kanara dist. will be considered after the model relating to the improvements to Mangalore port experiments that are being conducted at Poona are completed and their results examined. No action is therefore called for on the request.

26.5.55

DMS 27.5.55

Draft

3C
26/5

Typed

P.1

Memo No 37229 A/55.1 d 27-5-55

Communications - Bridges - South Kanara District Board - Construction of bridges along - Coast road.

Ref. Welcome address presented by the Dt Board, South Kanara to the Chief Minister on 29.4.55

An extract from the Welcome address cited is forwarded to the CE (H) for disposal.

M
14.5.55

PA
14/5/55

Kow
14.5.55

ppl-2cf

DISPATCH

Issue
21/5

Initials

To
The CE (H)
with copy of Xmplg)

Ltr

3/4/5

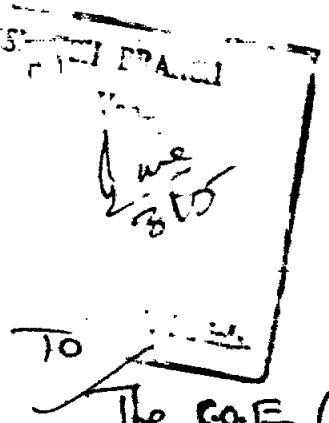
Pwd(Es)

Memo no 37229 A/55-2 d 27-5-55

Sub:- Elecy - Pykara Elecy System -
South Kanara Dt - Extension
of Trg power to wards of
Kanara
South ~~Kanara~~ Dt

PS

An extract from the Welcome Address presented by the South Kanara ~~Chamber of Com~~ District Board to C.M. on 29.4.55 is forwarded to the CoE (S) for disposal.



Under extract of para 5 on p. 2

21.5.55

23/5/55

21/5/55